

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 8-9, 14-15 and 20-26 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claim 10 has been amended into independent form. New claims 27-38 have been added. Claims 10-13, 16-19 and 27-38 are currently pending.

New claims 27-38 add no new matter and support for these claims can be found in the specification, drawings and the original claims. For example, with reference to new claim 27:

Support for the base member can be found in claims 8-26, Figs. 1-8, and at page 13, lines 22-27 of the specification (page 14, lines 22-27 of the Third Preliminary Amendment);

Support for the at least a first claw member can be found in claims 8-26; Figs. 1-8, and at page 14, lines 1-27 of the specification;

Support for the rotatable input member can be found in claims 8-26, Figs. 1-8, and at page 13, lines 15-21 and page 15, lines 16-19 of the specification;

Support for the screw shaft member can be found in claims 8-26, Figs. 1-8, and at page 16, lines 3-25 of the specification;

Support for the gear mechanism can be found in claims 8-26, Figs. 1-8, and at page 15, lines 20-24 and page 15, line 28-page 16, line 18 of the specification; and

Support for the conversion mechanism can be found in claims 8-26, Figs. 1-8, and at page 16, line 22 - page 17, line 19 of the specification.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has noted that claim 19 is allowable. The Examiner has objected to claims 10-18, 21, 22, 25 and 26 as being dependent upon a rejected base claims but noted that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for this allowable subject matter. Claim 10 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim (claim 8) and the intervening claim (claim 9). Claims 11-18 depend from claim 10. Therefore, claims 10-19 are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

III. Amendments to the Specification

Certain paragraphs of the specification have been amended to eliminate various typographical errors. These amended paragraphs add no new matter.

IV. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

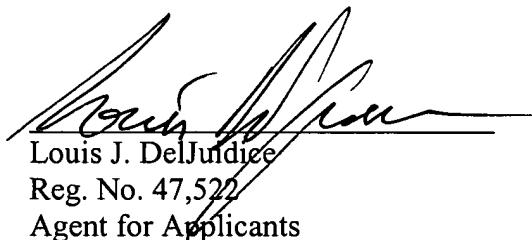
Claims 8, 9, 20, 23 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Swanson et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,610,644 (“Swanson”). Claims 8, 9, 20, 23 and 24 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein, thereby rendering the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) moot. New claims 27-38 are also submitted as patentably distinct from Swanson.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, in view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



Louis J. DelJuidice
Reg. No. 47,522
Agent for Applicants

DARBY & DARBY, P.C.
Post Office Box 5257
New York, N.Y. 10150-5257
Phone (212) 527-7700